

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. (Currently Amended) An easy open can end member comprising:
 - a central panel centered about a longitudinal axis having a peripheral edge and a tear panel defined by a fracture line, the tear panel retained to the central panel along a non-scored hinge region;
 - a curl defining an outer perimeter of the end member;
 - a circumferential chuckwall extending downwardly from the curl; and
 - a transition wall connecting the chuckwall with the peripheral edge of the central panel, the transition wall comprising a folded portion ~~having a first end portion directly connected to the chuckwall and a second end portion connected to the central panel~~ comprising an annular concave bend directly connected to and extending downwardly from the chuckwall and an annular convex bend extending upwardly from the annular concave bend and interconnected to the central panel.
2. (Original) The easy open can end member of Claim 1 wherein the folded portion extends outwardly relative to the longitudinal axis.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) The easy open can member of Claim 1 wherein the folded portion ~~fold~~ has a second end portion directly connected to the peripheral edge of the central panel.

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5. (Original) The easy open can member of Claim 1 wherein the chuckwall extends downwardly from the curl at an obtuse angle and the folded portion has a thickness that is substantially less than a length of the chuckwall.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) The easy open can end member of Claim 1 ~~Claim 6~~ wherein the folded portion further comprises a third bend joining the annular convex bend with the central panel.
8. (Original) The easy open can end member of Claim 7 wherein the third bend has a radius of curvature substantially defined by a lower extent of the annular concave bend.
9. (Currently Amended) The easy open can end member of Claim 1 wherein the ~~folded portion includes an~~ annular concave portion engages ~~in engagement with~~ the peripheral edge of the central panel.
10. (Original) The easy open can end member of Claim 9 wherein the concave annular portion includes an apex, the apex being in engagement with the peripheral edge of the central panel.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently Amended) An easy open can end member comprising:

a central panel centered about a longitudinal axis having a peripheral edge and a tear panel defined by fracturable score, the tear panel retained to the central panel along a non-scored hinge region;

a curl defining an outer perimeter of the end member;
a circumferential chuckwall extending downwardly from the curl; and
a transition wall connecting the chuckwall with the peripheral edge of the central panel, the transition wall comprising a folded portion extending upwardly along the chuckwall.

13. (Previously Presented) The easy open can member of Claim 12 wherein the folded portion extends outwardly relative to the longitudinal axis.

14. (Original) The easy open can member of Claim 13 wherein the fold has a length less than a length of the curl.

15. (Original) The easy open can member of Claim 12 wherein the chuckwall extends downwardly from the curl at an obtuse angle and the folded portion has a thickness that is substantially less than a length of the chuckwall.

16. (Original) The easy open can member of Claim 12 wherein the folded portion comprises an annular concave bend extending downwardly from the chuckwall and an annular convex bend extending upwardly from the annular concave bend and interconnected to the central panel.

17. (Original) The easy open can end member of Claim 16 wherein the folded portion further comprises a third bend joining the annular convex bend with the central panel.

18. (Original) The easy open can end member of Claim 17 wherein the third bend has a radius of curvature substantially defined by a lower extent of the annular concave bend.
19. (Original) The easy open can end member of Claim 18 wherein the folded portion includes an concave annular portion in engagement with the peripheral edge of the central panel.
20. (Original) The easy open can end member of Claim 19 wherein the concave annular portion includes an apex, the apex being in engagement with the peripheral edge of the central panel.
21. (Previously Presented) The easy open can end member of Claim 20 wherein the folded portion further extends outwardly relative to the longitudinal axis.
22. (Original) The easy open can end member of Claim 21 wherein the folded portion has a thickness which is substantially less than a length of the chuckwall.
23. (Previously Presented) An easy open can end member comprising:
 - a central panel centered about a longitudinal axis having a peripheral edge, a public side and a product side;
 - a curl defining an outer perimeter of the end member;
 - a circumferential chuckwall extending downwardly from the curl; and
 - a transition wall connecting the chuckwall with the peripheral edge of the central panel, the transition wall comprising a fold including a concave annular portion having an apex engaging the peripheral edge of the central panel.

24. (Previously Presented) The easy open can end member of Claim 23 wherein the apex engages the public side of the peripheral edge of the central panel.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) The easy open can end member of Claim 23 wherein the fold further includes a convex annular portion joined to the concave annular portion and interconnected to the peripheral edge of the central panel.

27. (Original) The easy open can end member of Claim 26 wherein the fold further includes a third bend joining the convex annular portion to the peripheral edge of the central panel.

28. (Original) The easy open can end member of Claim 27 wherein the fold has a thickness less than a length of the chuckwall.

29. (Original) The easy open can end member of Claim 23 wherein the fold includes a portion extending outwardly relative to the longitudinal axis.

30. (Original) The easy open can end member of Claim 29 wherein the portion of the fold further extends upwardly relative to the central panel.

31. (Currently Amended) An easy open can end member comprising:
a central panel centered about a longitudinal axis and having a tear panel defined by
fracturable score, the tear panel retained to the central panel along a non-scored hinge region;
a curl defining an outer perimeter of the end member;
a circumferential chuckwall extending downwardly from the curl at an obtuse angle; and

a transition wall connecting the chuckwall with the central panel, the transition wall comprising a fold having a first end portion directly connected to the chuckwall and a second end portion connected to the central panel wherein the easy open can end member is without a countersink.

32. (Currently Amended) An easy open can member comprising:

a central panel centered about a longitudinal axis having a peripheral edge and a tear panel defined by fracturable score, the tear panel retained to the central panel along a non-scored hinge region;

a curl defining an outer perimeter of the end member and adapted for connecting the end member to a container body;

a circumferential chuckwall extending downwardly from the curl; and

a transition wall connecting the chuckwall with the peripheral edge of the central panel, the transition wall comprising a fold extending along a portion of the chuck wall.

33. (Currently Amended) An easy open can end member comprising:

a central panel centered about a longitudinal axis having a peripheral edge, a public side and a product side;

a curl defining an outer perimeter of the end member;

a circumferential chuckwall extending downwardly from the curl; and

a transition wall connecting the chuckwall with the peripheral edge of the central panel, the transition wall comprising a fold having a first end portion directly connected to chuckwall and a concave annular portion having an apex adjacent ~~approaching~~ the public side of the peripheral edge of the central panel.

34. (Original) An easy open can end member comprising:
- a central panel centered about a longitudinal axis having a substantially planar peripheral edge, a public side and a product side;
 - a curl defining an outer perimeter of the end member;
 - a circumferential chuckwall extending downwardly from the curl; and
 - a transition wall connecting the chuckwall with the peripheral edge of the central panel, the transition wall comprising a fold including a first leg extending downwardly from the chuckwall to a concave annular portion having a first apex in engagement with the public side of the peripheral edge of the central panel, a second leg extending upwardly from the convex annular portion to a convex annular portion, and a third leg extending downwardly from the convex annular portion to a radial bend portion joined to the peripheral edge of the central panel.

Claims 35-43 (Cancelled)